

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A unit package for a curable dental composite comprising:
 - 2 a. a carrier film upon which the composite is mounted;
 - 3 b. a cover disposed on said carrier film covering the composite; and
 - 4 c. the cover and carrier film releasably sealed together adjacent the perimeter of the
 - 5 composite.
- 1 2. The unit package according to claim 1 wherein the cover is spaced from the composite
2 and not direct contact therewith.
3
- 1 3 The unit package according to claim 2 wherein the cover is dome-like and disposed at a
2 distance from the composite.
- 1 4. The unit package according to claim 1 wherein the cover includes a surface of a
2 nonadhesive, release material.
- 1 5. The unit package according to claim 4 wherein the cover is coated with a nonadhesive,
2 release coating material.
- 1 6. The unit package according to claim 4 and the cover is in direct contact with the
2 composite.
- 1 7. The unit package according to claim 6 wherein the carrier film has laterally extending
2 tabs and the composite is disposed on the film centrally of the ends of the tabs.
- 1 8. The unit package according to claims 7 wherein the ends of the tabs are folded under the
2 central portion of the carrier film.
- 1 9. The unit package according to claim 8 wherein the carrier film has an additional tab
2 disposed centrally of the lateral tabs and extending transversely thereof, and the transverse tab is
3 folded under the central portion of the carrier film.

1 10. The unit package according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of unit packages are disposed
2 serially in side-by-side relation.

1 11. The unit package according to claim 10 wherein the outer strip and cover of a unit
2 package is detachably attached to the outer strip and cover the adjacent unit package.

1 12. The unit package according to claim 14 wherein the outer strip and cover of a plurality of
2 packages are perforated between adjacent packages.

1 13. A unit package for a light-curable dental composite comprising:
2 a. a translucent carrier film upon which the composite is mounted;
3 b. a cover disposed on said carrier film covering the composite;
4 c. the cover and carrier film releasably sealed together adjacent the perimeter of the
5 composite; and
6 d. the cover for the unit package is opaque to actinic radiation in the wavelength
7 which cures the dental composite.

1 14. The unit package according to claim 13 wherein the cover is spaced from the composite
2 and not direct contact therewith.

1 15. The unit package according to claim 14 wherein the cover is dome-like and disposed at a
2 distance from the composite.

1 16. The unit package according to claim 13 wherein the cover includes a surface of a
2 nonadhesive, release material.

1 17. The unit package according to claim 16 wherein the cover is coated with a nonadhesive,
2 release coating material.

1 18. The unit package according to claim 16 and the cover is in direct contact with the
2 composite.

- 1 19. The unit package according to claim 13 wherein the carrier film includes an outer strip of
2 material which is opaque to actinic radiation in the wavelength of the activation of the light-
3 curable composite.
- 1 20. The unit package according to claim 19 wherein the outer strip is releasably sealed to the
2 cover adjacent to the perimeter of the composite.
- 1 21. The unit package according to claim 20 wherein the carrier film is disposed on the outer
2 strip and substantially within the dome-like cover.
- 1 22. The unit package according to claim 21 wherein the carrier film has laterally extending
2 tabs and the composite is disposed on the film centrally of the ends of the tabs.
- 1 23. The unit package according to claim 22 wherein the ends of the tabs are folded under the
2 central portion thereof.
- 1 24. The unit package according to claim 23 wherein the carrier film has an additional tab
2 disposed centrally of the lateral tabs and extending transversely thereof, and the transverse tab is
3 folded under the central portion of carrier film.
- 1 25. The unit package according to claim 21 wherein a plurality of unit packages are disposed
2 serially in side-by-side relation.
- 1 26. The unit package according to claim 25 wherein the outer strip and cover of a unit
2 package is detachably attached to the outer strip and cover of the adjacent unit package.
- 1 27. The unit package according to claim 26 wherein the outer strip and cover of a plurality of
2 packages are perforated between adjacent packages.
- 1 28. The method of applying an aesthetic dental restoration from a unit package to a tooth,
2 which unit package includes a restoration composite mounted on a carrier film comprising:
3 a. placing the composite while on the carrier film adjacent the tooth upon which the
4 restoration is to be applied;

- 5 b. contacting the tooth directly with the composite with the carrier film still mounted
6 thereon;
- 7 c. contacting the carrier film opposite the composite with a dental composite
8 forming tool and forming the composite to the desired form by working the composite with the
9 film intermediate the composite and the tool;
- 10 d. curing the light-cured composite with the carrier film in place;
- 11 e. removing the carrier film after the composite is cured; and
- 12 f. polishing the composite to its final restorative form.

1 29. The method according to claim 28 wherein the composite is centrally positioned on the
2 carrier film and includes lateral handling tabs on either side of the composite the additional steps
3 of placing the composite adjacent the tooth and then contacting the tooth with the composite by
4 moving the tabs forward toward the adjacent teeth while holding the carrier taught between the
5 tabs.

1 30. The method according to claim 29 wherein after the tooth is contacted by the composite,
2 the additional steps of placing the tabs into the embrasures between the tooth to which the
3 composite has been applied and the immediately adjacent teeth and tensioning the tabs
4 rearwardly of the tooth thereby spreading the composite over the surface to which applied.

1 31. The method according to claim 30 wherein the carrier film includes an additional tab
2 positioned centrally of the tabs and extending perpendicularly of the line between the tabs a
3 distance sufficient to be grasped when the composite is placed on the tooth, including the steps
4 of pulling the third tab over the incisal edge of the tooth and rearwardly of the tooth thereby
5 spreading the composite further over the tooth to which applied.

1 32. The method according to claim 31 including the step of forming the composite to the
2 desired form by working the composite through the film after the composite has been spread by
3 pulling the tabs.

1 33. The method of applying an aesthetic dental restoration from a unit package to a tooth,
2 which unit package includes a restoration composite mounted on a carrier film comprising:

- 3 a. placing the composite while on the carrier film adjacent the tooth upon which the
- 4 restoration is to be applied;
- 5 b. contacting the tooth directly with the composite with the carrier film still mounted
- 6 thereon;
- 7 c. contacting the carrier film opposite the composite with a dental composite
- 8 forming tool and forming the composite to the desired form by working the composite with the
- 9 film intermediate the composite and the tool;
- 10 d. curing the composite with the carrier film in place;
- 11 e. removing the carrier film after the composite is cured; and
- 12 f. polishing the composite to its final restorative form.

1 34. The method according to claim 33 wherein the composite is centrally positioned on the
2 carrier film and includes lateral handling tabs on either side of the composite the additional steps
3 of placing the composite adjacent the tooth and then contacting the tooth with the composite by
4 moving the tabs forward toward the adjacent teeth while holding the carrier taught between the
5 tabs.

1 35. The method according to claim 34 wherein after the tooth is contacted by the composite,
2 the additional steps of placing the tabs into the embrasures between the tooth to which the
3 composite has been applied and the immediately adjacent teeth and tensioning the tabs
4 rearwardly of the tooth thereby spreading the composite over the surface to which applied.

1 36. The method according to claim 35 wherein the carrier film includes an additional tab
2 positioned centrally of the tabs and extending perpendicularly of the line between the tabs a
3 distance sufficient to be grasped when the composite is placed on the tooth, including the steps
4 of pulling the third tab over the incisal edge of the tooth and rearwardly of the tooth thereby
5 spreading the composite further over the tooth to which applied.

1 37. The method according to claim 36 including the step of forming the composite to the
2 desired form by working the composite through the film after the composite has been spread by
3 pulling the tabs.

1 41. The method of applying an aesthetic dental restoration composite wherein the restoration
2 composite is mounted on a carrier film comprising:

3 a. placing the composite while on the carrier film adjacent the tooth upon which the
4 restoration is to be applied;

5 b. contacting the tooth directly with the composite with the carrier film still mounted
6 thereon;

7 c. contacting the carrier film opposite the composite with a dental composite
8 forming tool and forming the composite to the desired form by working the composite with the
9 film intermediate the composite and the tool;

10 d. curing the composite with the carrier film in place;

11 e. removing the carrier film after the composite is cured; and

12 f. polishing the composite to its final restorative form.

1 42. The method according to claim 41 wherein the composite is centrally positioned on the
2 carrier film and includes lateral handling tabs on either side of the composite the additional steps
3 of placing the composite adjacent the tooth and then contacting the tooth with the composite by
4 moving the tabs forwardly toward the adjacent teeth while holding the carrier taught between the
5 tabs.

1 43. The method according to claim 42 wherein after the tooth is contacted by the composite,
2 the additional steps of placing the tabs into the embrasures adjacent the tooth to which the
3 composite has been applied and the immediately adjacent teeth and tensioning the tabs
4 rearwardly of the tooth thereby spreading the composite over the surface to which applied.

1 44. The method according to claim 43 wherein the carrier film includes an additional tab
2 positioned centrally of the tabs and extending perpendicularly of the line between the tabs a
3 distance sufficient to be grasped when the composite is placed on the tooth, including the steps
4 of pulling the third tab over the incisal edge of the tooth and rearwardly of the tooth thereby
5 spreading the composite further over the tooth to which applied.

45. The method according to claim 44 including the step of forming the composite to the desired form by working the composite through the film after the composite has been spread by pulling the tabs.